

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 SCEM-02 EB-11 COME-00

INT-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /181 W

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R 021621Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1654

UNCLAS CARACAS 9310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG VE

SUBJECT: CALDERA PLEDGES NO ACTION ON EARLY REVERSION THIS YEAR.

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT CALDERA, REFERRING TO UNEASINESS AMONG PETROLEUM WORKERS ABOUT POSSIBLE EARLY REVERSION, GAVE CATEGORICAL ASSURANCES NOVEMBER 1 THAT HE WOULD TAKE NO ACTION CONCERNING EARLY REVERSION THIS YEAR. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT CALDERA, IN HIS REGULAR WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 1, SAID THAT VENEZUELA WOULD NOT MAKE ANY DECISION ON EARLY DIVERSION DURING THIS YEAR'S NATIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT HIS REMARKS THIS SUBJECT:

3. "FINALLY I WOULD LIKE IN THIS FIRST PART OF TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE TO REFER TO A POINT WHICH I THINK IS NECESSARY TO RAISE. A SORT OF UNEASINESS OR ALARM HAS BEEN CREATED AMONG VENEZUELAN EMPLOYEES OF PETROLEUM ENTERPRISES BY THEME OF REVERSION AND ITS SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS. THERE HAS BEEN A SERIES OF CONSIDERATIONS THAT COULD BRING WITH THEM DISCOURAGEMENT OR COULD PROVOKE DISADJUSTMENT. IN THS FIRST PLACE, I WOULD LIKE TO DECLARE THE FOLLOWING IN A VERY EMPHATIC MANNER: I WILL NOT PROCLAIM THIS YEAR ANY TYPE OF MEASURE IN RELATION TO PETROLEUM REVERSION, WITHIN JUDICIAL FRAMEWORK

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AND OUR SYSTEM, GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE MOVING AHEAD, AND I

BELIEVE THAT OUR OIL POLICY IS SOMETHING THAT HAS DEMONSTRATED, IN AUTHENTIC MANNER, ITS GOOD ORIENTATION AND THAT ALL VENEZUELAN SHOULD BE SATISFIED. I HAVE NO IDEA OF MAKING AN ANNOUNCEMENT OR DECREE. THERE HAVE BEEN PROPOSALS BY MINISTRY OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS AND BY OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS THAT VENEZUELA MUST STUDY PROBLEM OF REVERSION AND THAT, PERHAPS, IN MANY CASES, EARLY REVERSION MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO ASSURE ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THESE AFFAIRS, ALL WITHIN OUR JUDICIAL ORDER, AND CHOOSING BEST MEANS WE HAVE, BUT ONE MUST NOT EXPECT ANY SURPRISE, ANY ANNOUNCEMENT, ANY DECREE TO BE PREPARED IN YEAR 1973. BUT, ON OTHER HAND, I WANT TO SAY FOR VENEZUELAN STATE AND FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER, THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS ARE PRIORITY MATTER. EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE THEM, FULLY, SATISFACTORILY, EFFECTIVELY, THE ENJOYMENT OF RIGHTS AND LAWS AND COLLECTIVE CONVENTIONS GIVEN THEM, IS MORE THAN GUARANTEED AND THAT THEY SHOULD NOT IN ANY RESPECT NOURISH ANY TYPE OF FEAR. SUCH WILL BE A PRIORITY QUESTION AND THE DAY THAT VENEZUELA IS TOTALLY MANAGING ITS OIL, THEY (...THE EMPLOYEES...) WILL HAVE A POSITION EVEN MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEN THEY WILL NO LONGER BE SUBORDINATES OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISES BUT WILL BE MEMBERS OF TEAMS THAT REPRESENT FULLY INTERESTS OF VENEZUELA AND THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. THUS, THEN, ALL CONCERN AND INQUIETUDE ON THIS MATTER SHOULD BE CAST ASIDE".
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, PETROLEUM, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CARACA09310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731159/aaaabrka.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Oct-2001 by damankm0>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALDERA PLEDGES NO ACTION ON EARLY REVERSION THIS YEAR.
TAGS: ENRG, VE, (CALDERA, RAFAEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005